Sir. However, considering the severity of sea-erosion problems in certain reaches, Government of India has taken up a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for anti-sea erosion works in critical areas in March 2004 on pilot basis. Under the scheme, Central Government has provided following assistance to the State Governments in the form of grant as under:

Year	Amount (Rs. in crore)
2003-04	1.50
2004-05	2.00

The CSS is transferred to the State sector with effect from April 2005 with an allocation of Rs. 10.00 crore for the financial year 2005-06.

(c) Does not arise.

Inter-linking of rivers

155. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have agreed before the Supreme Court not to go back on the inter-linking of rivers with an estimated cost of Rs. 5 lakh crores;

(b) whether the issue has been placed before the Cabinet in the month of September, 2004 for a comprehensive review;

(c) if so, what is the decision of the Cabinet in this regard; and

(d) what Action-Plan does Government have to complete the project as early as possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (d) A presentation was made by Ministry of Water Resources on 'Inter-linking of Rivers' before Hon'ble Prime Minister on October 11, 2004. Union Minister (Finance), Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, Minister (Water Resources), Member, Planning Commission and Principal Secretary to Prime Minister were also present. After the Presentation, a number of decisions were taken including to pursue the Inter-linking of Rivers with focus on Peninsular Component in a fully consultative manner and this fact has been brought to the notice of Hon'ble Supreme Court in October, 2004. The completion of the inter-linking schemes depend upon the early consensus between the concerned States.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.